

October 24, 2023

The Merrick County Board of Supervisors met Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 9:05 a.m. in the Supervisors Room, County Courthouse, Central City, NE, with Kucera, Jarecke, Dexter, Kreachbaum, Placke, Weller, and Wiegert present. County Clerk Strobel was also present. Notice of the meeting was given thereof by publications in the Republican Nonpareil and The Palmer Journal and the Merrick County Website. Proof of publication is filed in the Clerk's Office. Copies of the agenda were mailed to each Supervisor and kept current and available to the public at the County Clerk's Office.

Chairman Wiegert declared the meeting was preceded by publicized notice and having acknowledged and identified the location of the posting of the current copy of the Open Meetings Act, called the meeting to order and in open session at 9:05 a.m.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to convene as Board of Supervisors at 9:05 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes

Agenda: Moved Dexter, second Jarecke to approve the agenda as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Minutes: Moved Jarecke, second Dexter to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 as published. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Meeting reports: NIRMA (Nebraska Intergovernmental Risk Management Assoc) meeting in Kearney was attended by Kucera, Placke, Dexter, Weller and Wiegert October 19 and 20. Jarecke attended the NIRMA meeting on October 19; Dexter, Kreachbaum and Wiegert-Long Term, October 18; Weller-Bader Park October 17th; Jarecke met with attorneys Mitchell Stehlik and Steve Knutson regarding the proposal received from Jennifer Kearney for a Public Defender position on October 11th; Kreachbaum and Wiegert-4H Building committee-October 16th; Kreachbaum-NE Roads meeting in Lincoln October 20th.

Officials Report: Treasurer Gilg presented a report on the ARPA Funds. Distress warrant reminders on real estate will be sent out. Gilg also informed the board the DMV will be at the courthouse on November 17th but will not be available in December. Gilg will have a notice published in the paper.

Public Comment: Ryan Dettman stated his displeasure by Placke asking the Republican Nonpareil who was paying for the Sheriff's report that was published. Julie Lacey introduced herself as the Interim Administrator for the hospital.

LTC: Emily Triplett provided an update on Long Term Care. Triplett also provided two quotes to the board regarding repair of the second boiler in the old hospital. American Boiler quote for \$51,114.00 and High Plains Boiler \$57,712.50. Triplett stated High Plains would offer it for \$55,000.00. Long Term Care would pay half and Merrick County to pay half. High Plains previously worked on the current boiler being familiar with the system.

Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to approve High Plains Boiler quote for \$55,000.00 with Merrick County paying half and to use ARPA Funds. Roll Call: Ayes-Kucera, Jarecke, Placke, Kreachbaum, Dexter, Wiegert. Nays-Weller. Motion Carried with a vote of 6-1.

Moved Kucera, second Weller to approve the courthouse to have a Pinnacle Visa with a limit of \$6000.00, Assessor Myers and Clerk Strobel to have cards and Brent Kunze, Highway Superintendent to have a card issued for the roads department with a limit of \$2500.00. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Moved Placke, second Dexter to accept the valuation and approve the Maintenance Contract with Central Plains Valuation. Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion continued regarding the security cameras and panic buttons at the Extension Office. No action taken at this time.

Moved Kucera, second Kreachbaum to approve the chairman to sign the Special Designated Liquor license for Hwy 14 Brewing Co, LLC. Even to be held November 15 from 4:00 pm until 10:00 pm for Men's Night at the 4-H Building. Roll Call: All Ayes

Attorney Todd McWha and Travis Bock, owner of Lazy B Lodge, appeared in front of the board regarding a Conservation Easement. The property is located east of Silver Creek, accretion ground with 95% in the flood plan. The property has been used as recreation and grazing. If approved Ducks Unlimited has approximately \$150,000 to use for restoration. Assessor Myers stated the property is valued as accretion.

Moved Jarecke, second Weller to approve the chairman to sign Resolution 2023-24 approving Conservation Easement for Wetlands America Trust, Inc from The Lazy B Lodge, LLC. Roll Call: All Ayes

Moved Kucera, second Dexter to approve the Electrical Agreement between Stoltenberg Irrigation/Kevin Brown and Merrick County in Sections 17 and 20, Township 13, Range 7.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Highway Superintendent Kunze recommended to the board that Inskip Ave and Grand Street improvements be shelved until the next fiscal year. Bader Park Road which was paved in 1987/1988 and has significant cupping due to the truck traffic. The engineers estimate to mill off 1" and put back 2" would cost \$566,000.00 and to mill of 1" and put back 2" would be \$791,000.00. The Road Buyback fund has \$240,000 to use on roads and has \$395,000 to be used for bridges. Moved Placke, second Dexter to allow the bid letting begin for Bader Park Road.

Roll Call: All Ayes

Discussion continued regarding the Planning & Zoning Administrator Position. Former Planning & Zoning Administrator Scott Stuhr was in attendance to offer any insight in filling the position. The position became vacant October 22, 2023.

Due to the air conditioner and heating unit at the jail needing replaced, Captain Bauer previously provided two quotes. One from McInay & Company: Good-\$10,230.00, Better-\$13,653.00, and Best-\$19,458.00. Nebraska Heating Air Inc: Good-\$10,767.00, Better-\$12,293.00 and Best-\$14,058.00.

Moved Jarecke, second Weller to approve Nebraska Heating & Air to replace the air conditioner and heating unit with the quote of \$12,293.00. Roll Call: All Ayes

October 2023 payroll was presented to the Board for approval. General Gross: \$62,782.02, Net: \$44,508.86. Road Gross: \$5,416.66, Net: \$3,585.96

Moved Kucera, second Jarecke to approve the October 2023 payroll as presented. Roll Call: All Ayes.

Adjourn: Moved Kreachbaum, second Dexter to adjourn at 11:57 a.m. Roll Call: All Ayes.

/s/Roger Wiegert, Chairman

/s/Trish Fate-Strobel, Merrick County Clerk